



## Press Clipping Article

**Title:** Farmers consider ethanol

**Date:** 05/03/2006

**Source:** [Glasgow Daily Times](#)

**Writer:** BRAD DICKERSON

**Lead:**

The third in a four-part series examining soaring gas prices

### Article:

The third in a four-part series examining soaring gas prices

A representative with the Barren County Extension Office talked recently about local farmers getting involved with ethanol production.

Gary Tilghman, county extension agent for agriculture and natural resources, talked of soybean's potential in the creation of ethanol. He believes the crop could be used along with corn in helping to produce the alternate fuel. Traditionally, the United States has relied exclusively on corn in creating ethanol.

Since many area farmers work with soybeans, Tilghman looked at the idea as helping to create an additional market for their product.

"Two bidders would be helpful for the farmer because they would now have two markets to get into," he said.

Tilghman added that several farmers have expressed interest in looking more closely at ethanol production. His office has been providing leaflets that contain more specific information to interested parties.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, ethanol is made from distilled starch crops and then combined with gasoline to create E85, a fuel source that is 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent gasoline. It is used to power vehicles known as flexible fuel vehicles.

Because its primary sources are crops, ethanol is a renewable fuel. Vehicles that run on ethanol also produce less carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide emissions than gasoline.

A June 2005 report from the Earth Policy Institute said that in 2004, Brazil led the world in ethanol production by distilling four billion gallons, the majority of which was produced from sugarcane. The U.S. followed behind them with 3.5 billion gallons.

In its report, the institute stated that sugarcane is the most efficient crop for ethanol

production. It yields eight times as much energy as is needed to produce the fuel. Brazil has been manufacturing ethanol from sugarcane since the 1970s.

Tilghman added that in order to grow a crop like sugarcane, one would have to first look at their surrounding environment and consider factors like the average temperature and how long of a growing season it would be.

For employees at Mammoth Cave National Park, ethanol use is already a part of their job.

Vickie Carson, public information officer for the park, said the decision to use ethanol came about in 1999. In that year, flexible fuel vehicles first became available for employees, along with an E85 fuel pump. The pump was installed with the assistance of the Kentucky Corn Growers Association.

Carson noted that the decision to give ethanol a chance stemmed from wanting to try something that might cut back on air pollution. She said a 2000 report from the National Park Service listed Mammoth Cave as the haziest of all the national parks in their system.

“For our air quality here at the park, [ethanol] had a lesser effect than gasoline does,” Carson said.

Today, Mammoth Cave has a 40-vehicle fleet of vans, Sedans and pickups that use ethanol. More than half of them run on E85, while the others run on E10, a fuel composed of 10 percent ethanol.

With fuel prices on the rise over the last few weeks and lots of concern about a possible gasoline shortage, Carson said curiosity about ethanol is growing.

“There has been so much more interest in ethanol,” she said.

---

[Previous Page](#) [Return to Search](#)

---

Copyright © 2001-2003 Commonwealth of Kentucky.

All rights reserved.

Generated Date: 5/17/2006 12:54:25 PM